



## State Legislative Update for the Week of February 23 - 27, 2015

*Monday, February 23, 2015*

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

#### **Senator Senjem introduced:**

**SF 1005:** A bill for an act relating to veterans; appropriating money to design and construct a memorial honoring Montagnard veterans.  
Referred to the Committee on Finance.

#### **Senators Bakk, Saxhaug and Ingebrigtsen introduced:**

**SF 1020:** A bill for an act relating to game and fish; allowing residents of Minnesota veterans homes to take antlerless deer without permit; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.465, by adding a subdivision.  
Referred to the Committee on Environment and Energy.

#### **Senators Carlson and Saxhaug introduced:**

**SF 1076:** A bill for an act relating to veterans preference; modifying certain procedures and rights related to veterans preference; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 197.46.  
Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

#### **Howe introduced:**

**HF 1177:** A bill for an act relating to veterans; appropriating money to design and construct a memorial honoring South Vietnamese veterans.  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

#### **Howe introduced:**

**HF 1178:** A bill for an act relating to veterans; appropriating money to design and construct a memorial honoring Khmer veterans of Cambodia.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: **House Veterans Affairs Division**

Chair: Rep. Bob Dettmer

Agenda:

**HF 450** (Lohmer): Military Spouses and Families Day established. This bill designates Military Spouses and Families Day on the Friday following Thanksgiving in honor of the support and sacrifice the spouses and families of military personnel make for their country. It also states the Governor shall issue a proclamation honoring this observance. The bill was re-referred to the State Government Finance Committee.

**HF 453** (Hancock): Veterans programs funding provided, and money appropriated. This bill appropriates \$100,000 in FY16 from the arts and cultural heritage fund to the Board of Directors of the MN Humanities Center. The board must use the funds for Veterans Voices Month events and other veterans programs. Veterans Voices is a program to recognize and honor the stories and contributions of Minnesota veterans. An oral author's amendment was adopted that would also appropriate \$100,000 in FY17. The bill was moved, as amended, and re-referred to the Legacy Funding Finance Committee.

**HF 546** (Dettmer): Government entity permitted to release military release forms to another government entity for purpose of locating records. Current law prohibits a government entity from releasing the contents of United States government form DD214 or DD215 or any other certificate of discharge from military service unless certain conditions are met. This prohibition does not apply to the release of forms DD214 or DD215 or other certificates of discharge by an employee or official within a government entity to another employee or official within that entity for official duties. This bill extends this exception to allow for the release of discharge documents to another government entity for purposes of locating records. The bill was moved and re-referred to Civil Law and Data Practices Committee.

**HF 841** (Dettmer): Resident status granted for purposes of higher education grants and scholarships to members of the state's National Guard who reside in the state. The Office of Higher Education administers a number of grant and scholarship programs to help students pay for the costs of higher education. These programs limit participation to Minnesota resident students as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.101. Typically, a student must have resided in Minnesota for at least 12 months for purposes other than higher education in order to be considered a "resident student." A number of other categories of individuals are also defined as residents, including members of the armed forces, refugees, and spouses and dependents of resident veterans.

H.F. 841 amends the definition of resident student to include all individuals who are active members of the Minnesota National Guard and reside in the state of Minnesota. This change would make all resident National Guard members eligible for the following Office of Higher Education grant and scholarship programs:

- **State Grant Program:** Provides grants to undergraduate students based on financial need. This program is the largest of the state grant and scholarship programs.
- **Child Care Grant Program:** Provides grants to students to help cover the costs of child care while enrolled in a course of study that applies to an undergraduate degree.
- **Indian Scholarships Program:** Provides scholarships to students with at least one-fourth Indian ancestry who qualify for federal Pell Grants.

This bill does not affect a student's eligibility for resident tuition rate at the University of Minnesota or at a Minnesota state college or university. Each postsecondary institution sets its own qualifications for resident or nonresident status; residency determinations are not directly regulated by state law. The bill was moved, as amended, and re-referred to the Higher Education Policy and Finance Committee.

**Committee: Senate Transportation and Public Safety**

Chair: Sen. D. Scott Dibble

Agenda:

**SF 345** (Johnson, A.): Purple Heart recipients driver's license and Minnesota identification card designation establishment; free state park permit eligibility authorization. The first section of this bill directs the Commissioner of Natural Resources to issue without a fee an annual or daily park permit to a vehicle used by a holder of a driver's license or state identification card that bears the Purple Heart designation. This section is effective January 1, 2016. The second section directs the Department of Public Safety to issue, to a qualified applicant who shows proof of eligibility, a driver's license or state identification card that bears a Purple Heart designation. The commissioner must consult with interested groups concerning the design. This section is effective immediately for applications submitted the later of January 1, 2016, or the day the relevant portions of the new DVS information technology system are implemented. The bill was recommended to pass, as amended, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Committee: Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Subdivision**

Chair: Sen. Jim Carlson

Agenda:

Presentation by Department of Military Affairs

Presentation by Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

***Tuesday, February 24, 2015***

**Committee Hearings**

Committee: **Senate Judiciary**

Chair: Sen. Ron Latz

**SF 338** (Saxhaug): Government entity authority to release certain military release forms to another government entity expansion. This bill expands the release of DD214 and DD215 or other certificates of discharge from military service from one government

entity to another government entity to include the purpose of locating records. The bill was recommended to pass.

*Wednesday, February 25, 2015*

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

#### **Kresha introduced:**

**HF 1190:** A bill for an act relating to state government; appropriating money for Minnesota Military Museum.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: **House Aging and Long-Term Care Policy**

Chair: Rep. Joe Schomacker

Agenda:

**HF 300** (Lohmer): Social Security benefits subtraction allowed. This bill allows taxpayers to subtract from Minnesota taxable income 10 percent of social security benefits that are included in federal taxable income in tax year 2015. Increases the percentage that may be subtracted by 10 percentage points per year, so that in tax year 2024, 100 percent of benefits would be subtracted. Under current law, Minnesota conforms to the federal treatment of social security benefits. Benefits are exempt from both federal and state taxation for filers with provisional income under \$25,000 (\$32,000 for married couples filing jointly). Up to 50 percent of benefits are included in taxable income for filers with provisional income over \$25,000 (\$32,000 for married couples filing jointly) but under \$34,000 (\$44,000 for married couples filing jointly). Up to 85 percent of benefits are included in taxable income for filers with provisional income over \$34,000 (\$44,000 for married couples filing jointly). In determining the amount of benefits included in taxable income, the term “provisional income” means federal adjusted gross income before including any social security benefits, plus tax-exempt bond interest and one-half of social security benefits. The committee report was adopted as amended and re-referred to the Tax Committee.

**HF 304** (Lueck): Social Security benefits subtraction allowed. This bill allows taxpayers to subtract from Minnesota taxable income 20 percent of social security benefits that are included in federal taxable income in tax year 2016. Increases the percentage that may be subtracted by 20 percentage points per year, so that in tax year 2020, 100 percent of benefits would be subtracted. See comment about current law above. The committee report was adopted as amended and re-referred to the Tax Committee.

**HF 308** (Davids): Social Security benefits subtraction phase-in allowed. This bill allows taxpayers to subtract from Minnesota taxable income 10 percent of social security benefits that are included in federal taxable income in tax year 2015. Increases the

percentage that may be subtracted by 10 percentage points per year, so that in tax year 2024, 100 percent of benefits would be subtracted. Current law comment is same as HF 300. The committee report was adopted as amended and re-referred to the Tax Committee.

**HF 309** (Davids): Social Security benefits subtraction phase-in allowed. This bill allows taxpayers to subtract from Minnesota taxable income a percentage of social security benefits that are included in federal taxable income. The percentage is increased over time so that 100 percent of benefits may be subtracted beginning in tax year 2022. The schedule for phasing in the full subtraction is:

- 32 percent in tax years 2015 and 2016
- 43 percent in tax year 2017
- 55 percent in tax year 2018
- 67 percent in tax year 2019
- 77 percent in tax year 2020
- 89 percent in tax year 2021
- 100 percent in tax year 2022 and following years.

Current law comment is same as those above. The committee report was adopted as amended and re-referred to the Tax Committee.

**HF 746** (Atkins): Social Security benefits subtraction phase-in allowed. This bill allows taxpayers to subtract from Minnesota taxable income 20 percent of social security benefits that are included in federal taxable income in tax year 2016. Increases the percentage that may be subtracted by 20 percentage points per year, so that in tax year 2020, 100 percent of benefits would be subtracted. Current law is same as all the above. The committee report was adopted as amended and re-referred to the Tax Committee.

#### Comparison of Social Security Exclusion Bills

| Bill number | Chief Author | Phase-in schedule                          | First year subtraction allowed | Year in which exclusion fully phased-in |
|-------------|--------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| H.F. 300    | Lohmer       | 10 percent per year for 10 years           | Tax year 2015                  | Tax year 2024                           |
| H.F. 304    | Lueck        | 20 percent per year for 5 years            | Tax year 2016                  | Tax year 2020                           |
| H.F. 308    | Davids       | 10 percent per year for 10 years           | Tax year 2015                  | Tax year 2024                           |
| H.F. 309    | Davids       | Increasing percentage per year for 8 years | Tax year 2015                  | Tax year 2022                           |
| H.F. 746    | Atkins       | 20 percent per year for 5 years            | Tax year 2016                  | Tax year 2020                           |

House Research Department

Committee: **House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance**

Chair: Rep. Tony Cornish

Agenda:

**HF 260** (Lesch): Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act established and modified. This bill (first engrossment) creates a chapter called the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act. The bill provides procedures and new laws that govern how parties can enter agreements for parenting and custody, including visitation with a nonparent and electronic, email, and telephone communication with a deployed parent, prior to and during the deployment of a parent who is in the armed services. The bill does not change or alter the rights granted under the Service Members' Civil Relief Act which allows service members to stay civil proceedings during active duty for various lengths of time. The committee report was adopted with the recommendation the bill be placed on the General Register.

Committee: **Senate State and Local Government**

Chair: Sen Patricia Torres Ray

Agenda:

**SF 504** (Wiklund): Former and current military members expedited and temporary health licensing establishment. In 2014, laws were enacted to provide expedited and temporary licensing for veterans for a number of licensed professions. This bill makes temporary and expedited licensing available to veterans for the following additional licensed professions: optometrist, dietician and nutritionist, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, clinical counselor, alcohol and drug counselor, and podiatrist. The bill also makes conforming changes for the temporary and expedited licenses for barbers, enacted last year. The bill was recommended to pass and re-referred to the Committee on Finance.

Committee: **House Mining and Outdoor Recreation Policy**

Chair: Rep. Tom Hackbarth

Agenda:

**HF 767** (Lucero): Veterans exempted from firearms safety certificate requirement. This bill allows any person who has completed basic training in the United States armed forces, reserve component, or the National Guard to obtain a hunting license without a firearms safety certificate (under current law there is an exemption for those who are on active duty only). It allows the commissioner of natural resources to require written proof of the training.

Committee: **Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Subdivision**

Chair: Sen. Jim Carlson

Agenda:

**SF 131** (Sieben): Veterans homes cost of care calculations modifications and personal needs allowance adjustments authorization. With the A-2 amendment, section 1 requires the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to establish in rules a method to calculate a maintenance charge for domiciliary residents. The maintenance charge establishes a personal needs allowance based on the resident's monthly income. This section sets the minimum personal needs allowance for the period June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2017 at \$122 per month and at \$130 for the following year. After that, the allowance is adjusted annually by one-half of the percentage change of the Consumer Price Index on the first day of each calendar year. Section 2 specifies that when a resident enters into an

agreement for a payment schedule to address overdue maintenance charges, the agreement must not reduce the resident's personal needs allowance below the minimum amounts specified in section 1 of the bill. The bill was amended and laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**SF 222** (Benson): Veteran-owned small business certification for state procurement modification and contract bid preference and appropriation. This first engrossment bill establishes an alternative procedure for a business to be certified as a veteran-owned small business. The procedure required under current law is a federal verification while this language would establish a state verification. Under current law, a veteran-owned small business is entitled to certain benefits, including bid preferences in state, county and city contracting. It permits counties to establish a bid preference program for veteran-owned businesses for capital projects that are paid for in whole or in part by state general obligation bonds. It permits the city of Rochester to award a six-percent bid preference to veteran-owned small businesses on public infrastructure projects under the Destination Medical Center development plan funded with city-issued general obligation bonds, revenue bonds or other obligations. It also permits local governments to implement a bid preference for veteran-owned small businesses for projects funded with state general obligation bonds. An appropriation of \$100,000 in FY2016 is provided to develop and implement a certification program for veteran-owned small businesses. The bill was amended and laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**SF 258** (Gazelka): Minnesota military museum appropriation. This bill appropriates \$50,000 in FY16 and \$50,000 in FY17 from the general fund to the Minnesota Military Museum to be used to fund the archivist position. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

**SF 74** (Gazelka): Camp Ripley sentinel landscape designation and coordinating committee establishment. This bill establishes a coordinating committee to designate certain lands in the vicinity of Camp Ripley to be contained in the sentinel landscape. The purpose of this mission is to identify lands near Camp Ripley that are important to the nation's defense and Camp Ripley's role in the nation's defense. Owners of designated lands will be encouraged to voluntarily manage their land in a manner that is consistent with Camp Ripley's military mission. It also requires the Adjutant General, in consultation with the coordinating committee, to prepare a report, by January 16, 2017, on the committee's work and progress in shaping Camp Ripley's sentinel landscape. The bill was amended and recommended to pass.

***Thursday, February 26, 2015***

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

**Senators Carlson, Clausen and Chamberlain introduced:**

**SF 1115:** A bill for an act relating to state government; requiring the commissioner of administration to ensure that service-disabled, veteran-owned businesses receive a

percentage of state procurement; providing bid preferences; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 16C.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senators Pappas, Saxhaug and Eken introduced:**

**SF 1176:** A bill for an act relating to military officers; providing for reimbursement grants to local units of government for public safety personnel on authorized leave; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 190.16, by adding a subdivision; 192.26, by adding a subdivision.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was adopted relating to adjournment for more than three days. Upon their adjournments on Thursday, March 26, 2015, the Senate and House of Representatives may each set its next day of meeting for Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

**House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

**Dauids, Newton, Simonson and Atkins introduced:**

**HF 1269,** A bill for an act relating to military officers; providing for reimbursement grants to local units of government for public safety personnel on authorized leave; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 190.16, by adding a subdivision; 192.26, by adding a subdivision.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance.

**Committee Hearings**

Committee: House Government Operations and Elections Policy

Chair: Rep.Tim Sanders

Agenda:

**HF 501** (Fenton): Military and overseas voting provisions modified. This bill expands the existing special procedures for absentee voting by members of the military and other citizens residing overseas to include members of the Minnesota National Guard.

The bill also allows adult children of citizens residing permanently overseas to vote in Minnesota elections, if a parent resided in Minnesota prior to leaving the country.

The House of Representatives adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5.

**Upcoming Committee Hearings of Veterans Interest  
Week of March 2 -6, 2015**

**Wednesday, March 4 Veterans Day on the Hill Rally, 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
at the Cedar Street Armory.**



## **Monday, March 2**

Committee: House Veterans Affairs Division

Chair: Rep. Bob Dettmer

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 12:45 PM

Agenda:

**HF 1106** (Davids): Service-disabled, veteran-owned businesses ensured by commissioner of administration to receive a percentage of state procurement, and bid preferences provided.

**HF 243** (Newton): Driver's licenses and Minnesota identification cards Purple Heart designation established, and state park permits provided.

**HF 545** (Johnson): Veterans-to-agriculture pilot program established, and money appropriated.

**HF 961** (Dill): Minnesota veteran home residents allowed to take antlerless deer without permit.

## **Tuesday, March 3**

Committee: House Civil Law and Data Practices

Chair: Rep. Peggy Scott

Room: 10 State Office Building

Time: 8:15 AM

Agenda:

**HF 546** (Dettmer): Government entity permitted to release military release forms to another government entity for purpose of locating records.

Committee: House State Government Finance

Chair: Rep. Sarah Anderson

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 8:15 AM

Agenda:

**HF 283** (Kresha): Camp Ripley nearby lands designated as sentinel landscape, coordinating committee created, and report required.

Committee: House Taxes

Chair: Rep. Greg Davids

Room 200 State Office Building

Time: 8:15 AM

Agenda:

**HF 300** (Lohmer): Social security benefits subtraction allowed.

**HF 304** (Lueck): Social security benefits subtraction allowed.

**HF 308** (Davids): Social Security benefits subtraction phase in allowed.

**HF 309** (Davids): Social Security benefits subtraction phase in allowed.

**HF 746** (Atkins): Social Security benefit subtraction phase in allowed.

**HF 312** (Dettmer): Military retirement pay subtraction phase-in provided.

**HF 125** (Dettmer): Veterans jobs tax credit provided.